



# The Halyard

We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails

A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists

March 5-12, 2004

## View From The Crow's Nest



I am so proud to be a library media specialist from Virginia! As I travel to the VEMA regionals, I am constantly amazed at the quality work that is taking place in our school libraries. The regional directors, and direct-elects are to be commended for their fine work. I look forward to traveling to Hampton, Northern Virginia, Roanoke, and Abingdon before the end of the month. I heard so many exciting stories about activities that are taking place, the collaboration opportunities and was excited to see several administrators and curriculum people present at the sessions.

While on vacation, I read a great article in the local newspaper about a middle school's use of graphic novels. It was excellently done. It outlined the process to include the purchase of these non-conventional reading materials into an already stretched budget. The library media specialist was interviewed as to how graphic novels had developed a core of readers within a population of struggling non-readers. She says that she has now created a monster! She has more requests than she has titles and is seeking additional funds to purchase additional titles.

## Governor's Innovative Technology in Education Awards

Again this year, AOL and the Governor are sponsoring awards designed to recognize educators from across Virginia for their skills in integrating technology into learning and teaching. The cash prize of \$2,500 will be presented to eight regional winners and to one educator from the private school sector. For additional information:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/OET/AOLentryform04.doc>



## Web sites of interest

For the astronomy buffs

<http://www.slooh.com/>

Computer Network Safety Tips

<http://www.discoveryschool.com/cdwg>

Teaching about the government budget process

<http://www.gsh.org/project/newsday>



Presidential Campaign

<http://presidentialcampaign2004.coas.missouri.edu>

## **Linking Libraries Update**

Information Literacy and Information Retrieval Skills

Information literacy (IL) is based on the concepts of locating, using, evaluating, developing, and communicating information in an ethical fashion to others or for one's own use. The new state technology plan will require that all school divisions provide an information literacy model for students and teachers to use. But there is another component that needs to be addressed. Information Retrieval Skills or IRS are the skills needed to locate, use, evaluate, develop, and communicate. Many library media specialists will recall these skills by their earlier name, library skills. It is not enough to know that the card catalog is where to go to locate books, but a student must be able to go from the card catalog to the book on the shelf. Once there they must know how to use the table of contents and the index to locate the information that is needed. Knowing what resources are available must be combined with knowing how to use the resource.



The Linking Libraries project is looking at student objectives and completing a task analysis to determine what skills do students need to be successful. The project will provide links to information literacy, content area SOL, information retrieval, and technology. Strategies for connecting the links will also be provided. The project is due to be completed by fall of 2004.



## **Professional Book Shelf**

Teacher Librarian February 2004 (page 26)

Alice Yucht writes a timely article for those who will be looking at hiring new library media specialists or knows that human resources are looking at potential applicants. She provides a list of questions AND 'recommended' responses.

The questions are divided into Library Management, Information Skills, and Teaching and Learning.

<http://www.teacherlibrarian.com/>